FOUR CONTEMPORARY PEASANT SONGS COLLECTED BY D. SATYARTHI

1. From Maharashtra by a peasant who came to the first village session of the Congress and who sang this typical song in a semi-comic tonej having said, "What will you do with the songs of foolish villagers like me?"

Oh bullock-cart driver!
Poor bullock-cart driver!!
On your bread so rough,
Tou have only an onion—
Is it for this, just tell me,
Tou wander about the fields all the day long?
Oh bullock-cart driver!
Poor bullock-cart driver!!

2. One stanza from a satirical song from Rajputana.

The man, who knows you, 0 money-lender, Has come to understand every inch of you. Tou don't mind taking people's blood, unfettered. But unfiltered water you cannot drink!

3. Here is a song of the Punjabi peasant, so tired of life that he does not even want to take part in the village-dance.

Make me not a peasant, 0 God,
Make me not a peasant: In any future birth of mine, 0 God,
Make me not a peasant!

So poor look my crops, just glance,
0 how can I jump in th& Giaha dance?
They have confiscated my plough and yoke!
And the corn I kept for seed I sold to feed my family.
1 have failed to pay the revenue-tax!
Where is the profit of a peasants labour?